

## Proposal to change the status of the provisional parish of Eagle Vale to a parish

(A report of the Wollongong Regional Council.)

### Proposal

1. The Minister and Wardens of the provisional parish of Eagle Vale propose under clause 4 of the Parishes Ordinance 1979 that the provisional parish be reclassified as a parish. The provisional parish requested the Wollongong Regional Council to review this proposal under clause 5 of the Parishes Ordinance and make a recommendation to Standing Committee to put this proposal before the Synod in 2011.
2. The various requirements for this proposal under clauses 4 and 6 of the Parishes Ordinance have been met and the details of this follow.

### Support of the Wollongong Regional Council

3. On 5 April 2011 the Wollongong Regional Council resolved to support the request that the provisional parish of Eagle Vale be classified as a parish under the Parishes Ordinance 1979.

### Parish information

4. The provisional parish of Eagle Vale came into being with a vision borne of the need to reach the new residential areas north of Campbelltown and west of the F5 freeway with the Gospel of Christ. The first Sunday gathering of the church happened a quarter of a century ago in 1986 in the lounge room of current church members Stuart and Sue Carmody.
5. The home-based, family focused birth of the church has typified its approach to ministry since its beginning in an area where young families, with little former affiliation with formalised church, are far and away the dominant demographic.
6. As an off-shoot of St James Anglican Church at Minto, and under the ministry of the then Curate-in-Charge, the Rev Syd Clay, the church became established as a recognisable entity in the community. The first *formal* services commenced shortly thereafter in the local Community Centre in Eagle Vale.
7. As the vision for ministry in the parish took shape and solidified, so too did the planning for a strategically located church centre, with the securing of prime land at the corner of Eagle Vale and Emerald Drives. The financial means to purchase this land and construct the church facility, generously came via the Archbishop's "Vision for Growth" programme, and on 8 July 1990, the building was opened by the then Archbishop the Most Reverend Donald Robinson AO.
8. Over the years, and in addition to generous congregational offertory, the ministry at Eagle Vale has been graciously financially supported via various grants and gifts from the Diocese, other churches and charitable individual benefactors.
9. With great thanks to God the church would like to acknowledge in particular St Andrew's Anglican Church at Roseville, who to this day have given, and continue to give sacrificially to support many aspects of the church's ministry, and in particular, youth ministry. This partnership in the gospel has borne much fruit for the kingdom.
10. Given the demographic of the parish, ministry to youth, both in local schools and within church, has been a key component of ministerial effort since the earliest days of the parish.
11. A succession of paid staff and congregational members has been instrumental in sowing the seeds of the gospel in thousands of young people's lives.
12. Currently heading up this ministry are staff members, Matt Stanley (3 day/week Youth Pastor) and Tamara Taylor (2 day/week Assistant Youth Pastor). Matt also works 2 days/week as the Chaplain at a local High School.
13. As the vision evolved, in 2005 the Rev Craig Hooper became Curate-in-Charge, and we set about the task of building on all that had been done in the laying of foundations through the ministry of the Rev Syd Clay.
14. In 2008, Trent Sutcliffe became the one day/week Student Minister while studying at Moore College. By the grace of God and the generosity of God's people, he was with the church two years as a Student, and then became the church's first full time Assistant Pastor in 2010.
15. In 2009 St Peter's Anglican Church in Campbelltown petitioned the church with the view of it adopting ministerial responsibility for the suburbs of Blairmount and Claymore from St Peter's. After much discussion and prayer, and with Trent coming to minister full time, this came to fruition in 2010 when the parish boundaries were formally adjusted, and these two suburbs became part of the provisional parish of Eagle Vale.
16. Among Trent's core duties is responsibility for the gospel going forth in the suburbs of Claymore and Blairmount. He also heads up the Men's Ministry, SRE, Home Bible Study groups and a new ministry endeavour "Boys and Girls Club". This is run in one of the local primary schools and caters to those children (and families) who have had little or no previous connection with a church. This is ground-breaking ministry for the church which is making a connection at a fundamental level (often even in the provision of meals), and seeking to demonstrate the love of Christ in a very practical manner.

17. With thanks to God, this opportunity to devolve some key ministerial responsibilities to Trent, Matt and Tamara, has opened the way for the Senior Pastor to develop the vision for ministry to the 20,000 resident-strong parish. Further, it has enabled him to spend valuable time working on the ministry, as against only in the ministry.

18. This eventuality is indeed valuable given that 25% of the parish claim to be Anglican (5,000 people). This is seen against the backdrop of the whole Campbelltown local government area; where just over 33,000 claim to be Anglican, which represents 23% of the population. (*This information was gleaned from the Campbelltown City Council Community Profile website drawn from the latest Census information.*)

19. Steady growth in the size of the congregation has precipitated the need to consider how the church might expand the capacity of its building. Once again within the providence of God, the recent alteration of the parish boundaries brought with it a demountable building, which the church is currently in the process of moving to its church site in Eagle Vale.

20. Also, the church is investigating at this time how it might develop a partnership-based ministry with Anglicare, wherein a food relief type of program could be coupled with various other ministries.

21. The ultimate goal of this would be the integration of those recipients of the ministry into the church family.

22. Ironically this year the church has filled the last page of its first "Register of Services" record. Symbolically therefore as it strikes the first mark in the new journal, so too does it look forward to the next chapter in the life of its ministry to the areas of Blairmount, Claymore, Eagle Vale, Eschol Park, Kearns and Raby.

23. The attendance figures from 2008 are as follows –

	2008	2009	2010
<b>9.45am</b>			
Adults	55	60	73
Children (C)	24	29	28
Teens (T)	12	7	12
<b>6pm</b>			
Adult	23	24	27
0-18	11	12	11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>151</b>

### Particulars of church property

24. The Property held by the Anglican Church Property Trust upon trust for the provisional parish is as follows: Eagle Vale Anglican Church building and the Rectory.

### Summary of operating receipts and payments

25. A summary of the financial position over the past three years (and budget for 2011) is set out below –

	2008	2009	2010	2011 (Budget)
<b>Operating Receipts</b>	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)
Offertories	107,325	126,273	206,338	213,886
Missions	1,982	1,823	2,377	1,500
Grants	33,986	20,000	-	-
Other	9,049	2,092	11,818	5,700
Trading Activities-Excess	4,880	4,936	5,552	3,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>157,222</b>	<b>155,124</b>	<b>226,085</b>	<b>224,586</b>
<b>Operating Payments</b>				
Ministry Staffing	92,619	90,826	144,311	149,328
Parish Cost Recoveries	15,627	17,334	27,664	29,390
Resources for Ministry	6,927	9,575	5,794	4,590
Missions	4,572	2,298	4,705	4,200
Administration	2,247	3,667	4,637	4,058
Property Expenses	12,862	7,856	5,686	10,000
Rental Expense	-	-	20,800	20,800
Other Expenses	2,753	2,987	4,458	2,220
<b>Total</b>	<b>137,607</b>	<b>134,543</b>	<b>218,055</b>	<b>224,586</b>
<b>Operating Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>19,615</b>	<b>20,581</b>	<b>8,030</b>	<b>-</b>

26. The Parish supports the following missionaries: Oldfields (CMS), Oldfields (BCA), Barley's (SIM).

**Other**

27. All other requirements under clause 6 have been met.

**Recommendation**

28. The Wollongong Regional Council recommends that the provisional parish of Eagle Vale be reclassified as a parish with effect from 1 January 2012.

For and behalf of the Wollongong Regional Council

PETER HAYWARD  
*Regional Bishop*

TONY WILLIS  
*Assistant to the Bishop*

12 April 2011